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future of the state of Nebraska because of what it does for those areas of the state that take advantage of it. And it's been proven, as I indicated to you the other day, as being a very effective tool for economic development clear across the state. We've not...we've not identified specific areas as being more worthy than others; it's only through a process of a committee that determines, on a competitive basis, those who are eligible for grants and for the type of program that both of these would...would support. So, with that, I will go on record in supporting Senator Kiel's amendment and hope that you would advance the bill...advance the amendment and then the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Members, in consideration of your colleagues, I would ask you to either hold your conversations down, or take them to the side. Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm going to oppose both the amendment and the main bill at this point. The main bill, 202, went through on General File and I was distracted and did not get to indicate my choice on that, mostly because these, if not 100 percent, because of the money in these two bills. We have some very, very difficult decisions ahead of us, this is probably one of the many, many that we're going to have. One of these, the main bill, 202, is an ongoing program that we have at this point. I will remind you, if you do not already know, it is not in the Governor's budget. We did not put the money in the appropriations bill at this point. So we are depending upon the A bill here to carry this forward, if in fact it goes. In addition, the neighborhood program, the amendment that we're on right now I also oppose. And the primary reason is we're going to have a very difficult time balancing the budget as it is. We're going to have to make some very difficult decisions. One of the easiest and if not the best way to hold down our spending increases is not to start new programs. So, regardless of their worth, and I'm not going to comment a lot on the worth of these programs, certainly most programs are worthy. But this is one that breaks new ground for us, the amendment specifically. I think if you're going to make those decisions, it's time to start now. We are going to be several million dollars apart when we get to May. I think we